Appendix CL, Annexure No. 79]. Among the children major problems encountered were protein Energy Malnutrition (PEM), Vitamins 'A' deficiency and deficiency of B-Complex Vitamins. Clinical anaemia was also prevalent. Anaemia was found in all age groups. A wide variation in the extent of prevalence of nutrition deficiency signs was found in the State surveyed. Prevalence of 'night blindness and Bitot' spots in Rajasthan was reported to be higher as compared to other States. These signs were seen among adults also quite frequently in Rajasthan unlike in other States.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The programme of Vitamin 'A' Solution distribution amongst pre-school children as prophylaxis against deficiency is being implemented through the States.

ICMR Nutrition Survey in drought affected area

1677. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NIN, Hyderabad, DMRC, Jodhpur, RMRC, Jabalpur were involved in an ICMR Nutrition Survey regarding the effect of drought on nutritional status, specially of the weaker sections and the reports have been analysed|evaluated and made public and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government are aware that ICMR Bulletin in July, 1988 had totally omitted the findings on Rajasthan, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the findings of the Rapid Drought Survey of six drought affected Districts of Rajasthan carried out by DMRC, Jodhpur from 26th October, 1987 had revealed serious Vitamin A deficiencies leading to Blindness; and

(d) these important findings have not been brought out by the ICMR Bulletin, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The article in ICMR Bulletin of July, 1988 was based on the features entitled 'Drought and Nutrition' in 'Nurition News', Vol. 8(6), 1987 and 'Diet and Nutrition during Drought' in Nutritoin News Vol. 9(3), 1988 published from one of the ICMR Institutions *viz.* National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) at Hyderabad. 'Nutrition News' is the in-house magazine of this Institution which publishes information on research carried out by that particular Institute *viz.* NIN, Hyderabad. This is the reason why the ICMR Bulletin of July, 1988 incorporated information only on the five States covered by the NIN, Hyderabad.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The survey conducted by Desert Medicine Research Centre, Jodhpur has shown that the prevalence of Vitamin 'A' deficiency was rather high. Among pre-school children Night Blindness was found to be 13.6 per cent. As mentioned above, the ICMR Bulletin of July, 1988 was based on artlcles publiched in the nutrition news from NIN, Hyderabad, and hence the results of findings from Rajasthan had not been included in this bulletin.

Setting up of tissue culture laboratory at Bangalore

1678. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first tissue culture Laboratory has been set up by Government at Bangalore as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 24th February, 1989, if so, the details thereof and its specific targets;

(b) whether similar Laboratory has also been operating under CSIR at Pune; if so, what is the number of tree and other Saplings produced since its inception;

(c) what has been the total production of tree Sapling in the country since its inception and what has been the survival rate; and

(d) whether it is a fact that there has been no intensive R&D effort in this direction so far, if so, the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No, Sir, the news item does not relate to any tissue culture facility set up by Govt. of India.

(b) and (c) The National Chemical Laboratory, Pune, under CSIR is having a Plant Tissue Culture Laboratory for multiplication of plantation crops and other plant species. The NCL group has so far produced several thousands plantlets/saplings in several species like eucalyptus, salvadore, pomegranate, tamarind, teak etc. These plantlets/saplings have already been transferred to the field for performance evaluation. The survival rate of the tissue culture produced plantlets has varied from species to species ranging between 60 to 80 per cent.

(d) Research on tissue culture of tree species has been in progress for over a decade in many research institutions in the country. The methods of propagating 100 year old teak (Tectona grandis) and 30 year old Eucalyptus citriodora at the National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune, are the first successful in-vitro processes for the multiplication of mature forest trees. The transfer of tissue culture technology to the field is being studied at several centres; these include: National Bank of Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) project on eucalyptus, bamboo and salvadora at National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Department of Biotechnology (DBT) project on bamboo at Delhi University and projects on sandal wood at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc.). The Deptt. of Biotechnology has initiated action for the establishment of two pilot plant units one at National Chemical Laboratory, Pune and the other at Tata Energy Research Institute, New Delhi as national infrastructure to standardise the production of lakhs of plantlets of several important forestry species to be used in field trials by forest departments etc. The DBT, has further initiated support to several R&D projects for the development of tissue culture for the rapid multiplication Micro-propagatoin techniques on many of the nationally important forest tree species.

Setting up of new army posts at Astore sector of Siachen

1679. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the setting up of new army posts by Pakistan in the strategic Astore Sector of Siachen with superior telecommunication network in the region and better system of monitoring the movements of the Indian troops;

(b) whether it is a fact that at the flag meetings held during the last one year the demand for the withdrawal of Pakistani troops to previous position has been turned down; and

(c) if so, what measures have been taken by Government to meet the situation arising out of the military build-up by Pakistan in Siachen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) There is no reliable report about the establishment of any new Pak army posts along the Line of Control in Astore Sector of Pak Occupied Kashmir of improved communication network in this area.

(b) No such flag meetings have been held during the last one year.

(c) A close watch is kept on all developments having a bearing on our national security and appropriate measures are taken as necessary to ensure defence preparedness.